

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00529 230926Z

17

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 /012 W
----- 033035

R 230855Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3512

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 529

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: MARINE SECURITY GUARD

REF: (A) STATE 89415; (B) LOURENCO MARQUES A-37 (NOTAL)

1. CONGEN HAS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED ASSIGNMENT OF MARINE SECURITY GUARDS MOZAMBIQUE, DISCUSSED THE PROGRAM WITH THE ON-SITE SURVEY TEAM MAY 18, 1975, AND RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDED THAT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IS SUCH AS TO OUTWEIGH THE VERY POSITIVE VALUE OF A MARINE SECURITY GUARD PROGRAM. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING EXTENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN USG AND NEW GOVERNMENT MAY ALTER SITUATION; HOWEVER, PRESENT DIFFICULTIES WITH FRELIMO AND TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT AND HIGH LEVEL OF SUSPICION OF U.S. INDICATE THAT BEST POSTURE IS FOR A LOW PROFILE, AS RECOMMENDED IN OUR ANNUAL U.S. POLICY ASSESSMENT.

2. THE MOVEMENT OF A GROUP OF MARINES INTO THE COUNTRY, INCREASING THE SIZE OF THE AMERICAN STAFF BY ROUGHLY 50 PERCENT, WOULD EASILY TRIGGER NEGATIVE POLITICAL REACTIONS, BE THE SOURCE OF ADVERSE PRESS REACTION AND ENGENDER INCIDENTS.

3. THE SITUATION WILL BE FOLLOWED CLOSELY IN THE HOPE THAT IT MAY BE FEASIBLE TO ESTABLISH A MARINE SECURITY GUARD PROGRAM IN MOZAMBIQUE IN THE FUTURE.

WALKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LOUREN00529
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750181-0530
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750524/aaaaauxt.tel
Line Count: 60
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 89415, 75 LOURENCO MARQUES A-37
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <11 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARINE SECURITY GUARD
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006